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## The reliability of individual vocal signature varies across the bonobos' graded repertoire --Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	<p>Animal vocalisations often contain both 'dynamic' information, related to short-term fluctuations in the emitter's emotional states, and 'static' information, related to long-term attributes such as age, sex, weight and body size which define the emitter's "individual vocal signature". While both types of information may be of functional value to receivers, dynamic information requires acoustic versatility, while static information depends on acoustic stability. Here we investigate whether an individual vocal signature is present across the vocal repertoire of the bonobo, <i>Pan paniscus</i>. We first emphasize the graded character of the bonobo's repertoire by describing the acoustic structure of its five most common tonal vocalisations. We then evaluate the reliability of identity information across these call types. The results show that, while all call types support information related to the emitter's identity, the reliability of these vocal signatures was not consistent along the graded vocal continuum. Caller identity is strongly encoded at one end of the acoustic gradation (high-hoot) and decreases from bark, soft bark, peep-yelp to peep calls. Strikingly, the reliability of the individual signature thus decreases from calls used in high-arousal contexts to low-arousal contexts. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first demonstration that an acoustic gradation that codes for 'dynamic' information can be accompanied by variation of the 'static' information that supports vocal individuality.</p>

## **The reliability of individual vocal signature varies across the bonobos' graded repertoire**

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## Highlights

- We investigated the coding of individual signature in a graded vocal repertoire.
- We compared the strength of individual vocal signature across the bonobo repertoire.
- Quantitative analysis revealed graded structure between most common call types.
- All call types investigated showed significant individual vocal signatures.
- The individual signature was stronger at one extreme of the vocal gradation.

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## Abstract

Animal vocalisations often contain both ‘dynamic’ information, related to short-term fluctuations in the emitter’s emotional states, and ‘static’ information, related to long-term attributes such as age, sex, weight and body size which define the emitter’s “individual vocal signature”. While both types of information may be of functional value to receivers, dynamic information requires acoustic versatility, while static information depends on acoustic stability. Here we investigate whether an individual vocal signature is present across the vocal repertoire of the bonobo, *Pan paniscus*. We first emphasize the graded character of the bonobo’s repertoire by describing the acoustic structure of its five most common tonal vocalisations. We then evaluate the reliability of identity information across these call types. The results show that, while all call types support information related to the emitter’s identity, the reliability of these vocal signatures was not consistent along the graded vocal continuum. Caller identity is strongly encoded at one end of the acoustic gradation (high-hoot) and decreases from bark, soft bark, peep-yelp to peep calls. Strikingly, the reliability of the individual signature thus decreases from calls used in high-arousal contexts to low-arousal contexts. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first demonstration that an acoustic gradation that codes for ‘dynamic’ information can be accompanied by variation of the ‘static’ information that supports vocal individuality.

60 **Keywords:** acoustic grading; bonobo; identity information; individual vocal  
61 signature

## INTRODUCTION

Bird and mammal vocalisations usually contain both ‘dynamic’ information, related to short-term fluctuations in the emitter’s physiological and psychological states, and ‘static’ information, related to idiosyncratic features such as age, sex, weight, and body size which define the emitter’s “individual vocal signature” (Briefer, 2012, 2020; Charlton, Pisanski, Raine & Reby, 2020; Pisanski, Nowak, & Sorokowski, 2016; Raine, Pisanski & Reby, 2017; Taylor, Charlton & Reby, 2016). Both dynamic and static information likely have important roles in a wide range of social contexts (Taylor, Charlton & Reby, 2016). The acoustic coding of dynamic information relies on versatile acoustic features that can be modulated depending on the emitter’s current internal state (Briefer 2012, 2020; Pisanski, et al., 2016a; Raine, Pisanski & Reby, 2017; Taylor, Charlton & Reby, 2016), and can be reflected in a repertoire of discreet call types (Bradbury & Vehrencamp, 1998; Cheney & Seyfarth, 2018; Maynard-Smith & Harper, 2003;), and/or in more subtle acoustic variations within each call type (graded vocalisations; Briefer, 2012, 2020). Sometimes, the acoustic boundaries between call types are unclear that the whole vocal repertoire can be considered as a graded system (e.g. Fischer, Wadewitz & Hammerschmidt, 2017; Hammerschmidt & Fischer 1998; Keenan, Lemasson & Zuberbühler, 2013; Manser et al., 2014; Marler 1977; Tallet et al., 2013). While dynamic information requires acoustic versatility, static information defining an “individual vocal signature” should depend on acoustic stability. How do animal signals deal with this potential conflict of information coding?



One solution is temporal segregation, which has been demonstrated in the vocalisations of the banded mongoose (*Mungos mungo*). This species produces calls containing two successive distinct segments, the first being stable and individually distinct, and the second being graded and correlating with the emitter's current behaviour (Jansen, Cant & Manser, 2012). Whether temporal segregation is a rare or a widespread way of separately coding dynamic and static information in vocal signals is a question that remains to be answered.

Another solution would be to keep the indexical acoustic cues supporting individual signatures stable across the whole vocal repertoire. This would mean a common set of individualized acoustic features, either shared between calls when the repertoire is composed by discreet calls or remaining invariable throughout a graded repertoire. Unfortunately, this hypothesis has been barely tested, as the vast majority of studies investigating individual vocal signatures have only focused on a single vocalisation type (e.g. in birds: blue footed boobies, *Sula nebouxii*, Dentressangle, Aubin & Mathevon, 2012; jungle crows, *Corvus macrorhynchos*, Kondo, Izawa & Watanabe, 2010; multiple species of penguins, Aubin & Jouventin 2002 ; in mammals: bats, *Saccopteryx bilineata* and *Noctilio albiventris*, Knörnschild & Von Helversen 2008; Voigt-Heucke, Taborsky & Dechmann, 2010; elephants, *Loxodonta africana*, Soltis, Leong & Savage, 2005; hyenas, *Crocuta crocuta*, Mathevon, Koralek, Weldele, Glickman & Theunissen, 2010; marmots, *Marmotta sp.*, Matrosova, Blumstein, Volodin & Volodina, 2011; seals, *Arctocephalus tropicalis*, Charrier, Mathevon & Jouventin, 2003; northern elephant seals, *Mirounga angustirostris*, Casey,

110 Charrier, Mathevon & Reichmuth, 2015; chimpanzees, *Pan troglodytes*  
111 *schweinfurthii*, Levréro & Mathevon 2013, and spider monkeys, *Ateles geoffroyi*,  
112 Chapman & Weary 1990). To the best of our knowledge, there has only been  
113 one study that has examined the coding of individual signature throughout a  
114 whole repertoire composed by discreet calls, in the zebra finch *Taeniopygia*  
115 *guttata* (Elie & Theunissen, 2018). In this songbird, individual recognition is of  
116 primary importance for pair bonding (Vignal, Mathevon & Mottin, 2004). Elie &  
117 Theunissen (2018) showed that each zebra finch call type displays a distinct  
118 individual signature, and, contrary to expectations, there is no common set of  
119 static, individualized, acoustic features. Instead, the vocal repertoire of a given  
120 emitter supports numerous signatures, and receivers have to memorize all of  
121 them to perform individual recognition. Moreover, the Elie & Theunissen (2018)  
122 zebra finch study, as well as the few other studies that have analysed more than  
123 one call type within a species' vocal repertoire, have emphasised that the  
124 reliability of individual signatures may vary among calls (e.g. putty-nosed  
125 monkeys, *Cercopithecus nictitans*, Price, Arnold, Zuberbuhler & Semple 2009;  
126 fallow deer, *Dama dama*, Vannoni & McElligott 2007, but see western gorilla,  
127 *Gorilla gorilla*, Salmi, Hammerschmidt & Doran-Sheehy, 2014). For instance,  
128 Charrier, Jouventin, Mathevon & Aubin (2001) found that both courtship and  
129 contact calls of a marine bird, the South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*),  
130 have a higher potentiality of individual identity coding than the alarm call. In the  
131 red-capped mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*), a monkey living in the African  
132 rainforest, individual distinctiveness is higher in contact and threat calls than in

other vocalisations (Bouchet, Blois-Heulin, Pellier, Zuberbuhler & Lemasson, 2012). Recently, Rubow, Cherry & Sharpe (2017) found similar results among the repertoire of the dwarf mongoose (*Helogale parvula*).

While a proximal explanation for signature inconstancy within a repertoire likely depends on variations in the shape of the vocal tract accompanying modulation of acoustic production (review in Charlton, Pisanski, Raine & Reby, 2020), its functional value remains uncertain. Although it may have no specific functional consequences (e.g. Rendall, Owren & Rodman, 1998), alternative hypotheses state that individual signatures differ across call types as an adaptive response to various socio-ecological pressures. On one hand, the ‘distance communication hypothesis’ predicts that in low visibility environments, such as dense forests, natural selection will favour individual signatures in vocal signals used to communicate over long distances beyond the visible range (Ey & Fischer 2009; Mitani & Stuht 1998). This hypothesis has received some support by comparing two chimpanzees’ vocalisations, a long distance and a short-range call (Mitani, Gros-Louis & Macedonia, 1996). On the other hand, the ‘social function hypothesis’ (Price, Arnold, Zuberbuhler & Semple, 2009; Snowden & Hausberger, 1997) predicts that the reliability of individual vocal signatures depends on the social role of a call type. If the vocalisation is emitted in a context where being recognized is of primary importance for individual-specific relationships, such as mated pair bonds, mother-young bond, or tolerant relationships between neighbours in territorial animals, it should bear reliable information about individual identity (Kondo & Watanabe, 2009; Kreiman &

Sidtis, 2011; Wiley, 2013). This hypothesis has been supported in birds (Charrier, Jouventin, Mathevon & Aubin, 2001; Elie & Theunissen, 2018) and some non-human primate species (e.g. mouse lemurs, *Microcebus murinus* (Leliveld, Scheumann & Zimmermann, 2011), Campbell's monkeys, *Cercopithecus campbelli campbelli* (Lemasson & Hausberger, 2011). However, these distant-communication and social function hypotheses may not be mutually exclusive. For instance, distance calls can play a significant role in social regulation, facilitating cooperation, such as the recruitment of conspecifics for support (Gersick, Cheney, Schneider, Seyfarth, & Holekamp, 2015; Mitani & Nishida, 1993), coordinating travel (Schamberg, Cheney, Clay, Hohmann & Seyfarth, 2016), signalling food ownership (Gros-Louis 2004; Heinrich & Marzluff, 1991), or conveying the aggressive or peaceful intentions of callers (Searcy, Anderson & Nowicki, 2006; Silk 2002).

To explore how an animal vocal repertoire can deal with the potential conflict of coding both dynamic information (e.g. expressing motivation, aggressiveness...) and static information (i.e. a vocal signature supporting individual recognition), here we investigate variations in the strength of vocal individual signature throughout the graded vocal repertoire of an ape species, the bonobo. Bonobos display a complex vocal repertoire with highly graded call types used flexibly across contexts (Bermejo & Omedes, 1999; de Waal, 1998). Despite growing interest in the acoustic communication of this species, our current knowledge of the information content of bonobo calls is limited, as only few studies have qualitatively described the bonobo vocal repertoire (Clay,

179 Archbold & Zuberbuhler, 2015; Clay & Zuberbuhler, 2009, 2011a, 2011b;  
180 Keenan et al., 2016; White, Waller, Boose, Merrill & Wood, 2015).

181 Bonobo society is characterised by co-dominance between the sexes (Surbeck  
182 & Hohmann, 2013) and complex fission-fusion dynamics which require  
183 sophisticated social knowledge and communication (Clay, Archbold &  
184 Zuberbuhler, 2015; Furuichi, 2011). It has been suggested that individual vocal  
185 recognition is essential for successful social navigation (White, Waller, Boose,  
186 Merrill & Wood, 2015). In a recent work (Keenan et al., 2016), we experimentally  
187 demonstrated that bonobos can vocally identify familiar to unfamiliar individuals  
188 using the peep-yelp, a soft vocalisation used in short range interactions. This  
189 study already revealed that soft calls convey information about individual  
190 signature, which is extracted by conspecifics. Other calls from bonobos'  
191 repertoire are good candidates to convey individual signatures regarding their  
192 propagation capacity in close habitat and their functions. Bonobos loud call  
193 types, e.g. high-hoots, can be heard from a distance of 500 meters in the forest  
194 (Hohmann & Fruth, 1994), and are regularly used by community members to  
195 communicate with one another when the group splits into foraging parties  
196 throughout the day. These vocalisations enable the sub-parties to convene  
197 around a resource, such as a fruit-bearing tree or nesting tree, despite potential  
198 distances between parties (Bermejo & Omedes, 1999; Hohmann & Fruth, 1994,  
199 1995; Schamberg, Cheney, Clay, Hohmann & Seyfarth, 2016, 2017; White,  
200 1996; White, Waller, Boose, Merrill & Wood, 2015). High-hoots are also  
201 exchanged when different communities encounter one another, and they appear

to influence inter-community interactions (Furuchi, 2011; Hohmann & Fruth, 2002). Caller identity signalling may thus be present in the bonobos' calls with various acoustic structure and functions.

In this study, we test the hypothesis that an individual signature does exist across the graded vocal repertoire of the bonobo, but that the reliability of this signature varies along with the variation of the acoustic features defining the call types. We firstly emphasize the graded character of the bonobo's repertoire by providing a quantitative description of the acoustic structure of the five most common tonal call types, as well as their contextual use. We then compare the individual distinctiveness across call types.

## **METHODS**

### **Ethics Statement:**

All research conducted for this research paper was observational and no experimental manipulations occurred. All data collection protocols were performed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations, and were approved by the Institutional Animal Ethical Committee of the University of Lyon/Saint-Etienne, under the authorization no. 42-218-0901-38 SV 09 (Lab ENES).

### **Subjects**

The bonobos observed for this study were members of three separate captive groups housed at three European zoos: Apenheul (Apeldoorn, the Netherlands), Planckendael Zoo (Mechelen, Belgium) and la Vallée des Singes (Romagne, France; see Supplemental Table A1 for group composition at each zoo). At each zoo, groups were housed in large indoor enclosures with varying access to off-exhibit rooms and outdoor islands. All individuals included in the study had lived in similar captive zoo environments certified by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria for a minimum of 10 years prior to recording. Vocal recordings and observations were taken from all areas at all three zoos, except in the off-exhibit enclosures at Apenheul.

To avoid the potential confound of differences in vocal tract size due to age, only bonobos over the age of 10 were included in this study. Additionally, one adult male and one female, who had overall low calling rates, were excluded. This led to a total of 21 individuals ranging in age from 10 – 45, with a mean age of 20.5 years old, and comprised of 13 females and 8 males.

## **Data Collection**

### *Vocal recordings*

Vocal recordings were collected between March 2013 and March 2014, beginning no earlier than 8 a.m. and finishing no later than 6 p.m. Recordings at Apenheul Zoo were collected from May 14, 2013 – July 6, 2013, as well as on March 12, 2014, and amounted to 175 hours of total recording time.

Recordings at Planckendael Zoo were collected from March 20, 2013 – May 10, 2013 and from February 20 – March 4, 2014, and amounted to 190 hours of total recording time. Recordings at la Vallée des Singes were collected from October 28, 2013 – November 25, 2013, and amounted to 115 hours of total recording time.

Audio recordings were taken using a Zoom H4 Digital Multi-track Recorder (44.1 kHz sample rate, 16 bits per sample, .wav files) - recording in stereo, with one channel devoted to a Sennheiser MKH70-1 ultra-directional microphone recording any bonobo vocal behaviour and the second channel connected to a micro-tie recording device, model AKG MPA III, for comments by the researcher. This allowed for temporal synchronising of each vocalisation to information on vocaliser identity and call context, as recorded by the researcher.

### *Call types*

Each call was assigned to one of the 11 types based on classifications described in previous studies (Bermejo & Omedes, 1999; Clay & Zuberbuhler, 2009; de Waal, 1988) by SK. We calculated the frequency with which each call type was produce so that we could assign a proportion to each call type in the entire dataset (relative to the 2,373 measurable calls collected from the 21 adults included in the study). Any call type that represented less than 10% of the total number of measurable calls collected was excluded from the analysis. In addition, two call types, screams and grunts, were excluded from the current



study, due to their noisy acoustic features characterised by non-linear phenomena and lack of clear harmonic structure. Unlike the rest of the adult vocal repertoire, these two call types would require a different set of measurements to describe their acoustic features. In total, five call types were retained, which represented the vast majority of calls emitted by all individuals in the study groups (78% of all calls collected, excluding screams and grunts): (1) high-hoots (14%; described as ‘staccato-high hoots’ by de Waal (1988) and ‘high hoots’ by Bermejo & Omedes (1999)); (2) barks (18%; described as ‘barks’ and ‘wieew barks’ by de Waal (1988) and as ‘barks’ and ‘composed barks’ by Bermejo & Omedes (1999)); (3) soft barks (17%; described as ‘soft barks’ by Bermejo & Omedes (1999), ‘food barks’ by Clay & Zuberbuhler, (2009) and not described by de Waal (1988); (4) peep-yelps (18%; described as ‘peep-yelps’ by de Waal (1988); Bermejo & Omedes (1999); Clay & Zuberbuhler (2009) and (5) peeps (11%; described as ‘peeps’ by de Waal (1988); Bermejo & Omedes (1999); Clay & Zuberbuhler (2009); see Supplemental Table A2 for full acoustic description of each call type).

#### *Call contexts*

If a caller could be identified, social and individual contextual information was also recorded. Each recorded call occurred in one of the following eight contexts: 1) ‘pre-feeding’ – calls given directly prior to or at the start of scheduled feedings when group/social excitement was extremely high (excitement described as increased sexual activity, displacements, pacing, pilo-erection,

vocal activity, displays and increased likelihood of aggression); 2) 'feeding' – calls given during scheduled feedings; 3) 'foraging' – calls given when foraging for or eating food found outside or in the inside enclosure outside of scheduled feeding times; 4) 'aggression' - calls given during agonistic encounters, including mild aggression (no physical contact), aggression (mild physical contact, such as hitting, kicking or grabbing between only two individuals), conflict (a range of physical contact, including biting, and often between more than two individuals) - agonistic interactions were also classified into calls from victims, from aggressors or from bystanders; 5) grooming - calls given during bouts of grooming; 6) contact – calls given when a subject was resting or moving but nothing else; 7) change of environment – calls given when individuals were shifted from one enclosure to another or from inside to outside; and 8) external event – calls given when an individual was visibly startled by or responding to a disturbance external to the group.

### **Acoustic Analysis**

Only vocalisations that could unequivocally be assigned to one caller were retained for analysis. Only calls of good, measurable quality were included, while calls that overlapped with background noise (e.g. birds chirping, water falling, zoo visitors speaking or other bonobos calling) were removed from the dataset. In total, 1,850 individual calls were retained for analyses (with an average of 88 total calls per individual ( $N=21$ ), S.D.= 37.87, minimum=45,

maximum=227). Raven Pro 1.3 was used to measure automatic and manual parameters on each call and spectrograms were generated using a 512-sample Hann window (50% frame overlap, frequency resolution of 86.1 Hz and temporal resolution of 11.6 mS). A correlation matrix was produced and very highly correlated variables were removed (0.9 and above), resulting in a total of 16 measurements being retained for analysis – nine manually measured parameters describing the fundamental frequency and its temporal modulation, and seven automatically computed parameters describing the distribution of energy across the frequency spectrum of the entire call (Table 1; Figure 1).

## **Statistical Analysis**

### *Call type distinctiveness*

To confirm whether our dataset could be reliably classified into the five main call types proposed by previous studies, we performed a multivariate permuted discriminant function analysis (pDFA) to determine the statistical distinction between the 1,850 individual calls (high-hoots:  $n=333$ , barks:  $n=431$ , soft barks:  $n=413$ , peep-yelp:  $n=420$ , peeps:  $n=253$ ; See Supplemental Table A2 for acoustic description of each call type). The raw values of the 16 acoustical parameters of interest were centred and normalised by transforming them into z-scores as the parameter set consisted of different units.

Mundry and Sommer (2007) have convincingly argued that using traditional discriminant function analyses (DFA), when analysing non-independent data (e.g. if the same individual contributed multiple calls), is a case of pseudo-replication and can inflate results. To address this issue, we employed a permuted discriminant function analysis (pDFA - Mathevon et al., 2010; Mundry & Sommer 2007) using the 16 acoustic variables (analysis performed in R, Version 3.2.0). The pDFA takes the classic DFA a step further by comparing the distribution of percent correct classifications obtained after 100 iterations (mean effect size) to the distribution of percent correct values obtained by initially randomly assigning the call type to each individual call (for the current analysis this distribution was obtained via 1000 created data sets where the call type of each call was randomly permuted).

In detail, we performed the following steps. In the first step of the DFA, a training data set was used to generate a set of linear discriminant functions. The training data set consisted of randomly selected sounds from each individual. The number of sounds selected per individual was the same for all individuals and equal to  $2/3$  of the smallest number of sounds that we obtained for an animal in our data set. In the second step, the discriminant functions generated from the training data set were used to classify the remaining sounds. For each individual, at least  $1/3$  of the sound provided by each individual was thus included in the validating data set. This cross-validation step gives a measure of the effect size (the percentage of correctly classified sounds; which has to be

compared with chance, here 20%, i.e. 1/5 possible call types). We ran 100 iterations of these two-step DFAs with both training and validation data sets chosen at random. The mean effect size (mean percentage of correctly classified sounds) was obtained by calculating the average of the percentages of correctly classified sounds obtained with each of the 100 validation data sets. In addition to the cross-validated DFAs performed on original data sets, new data sets were also created, where the identity of sounds was randomly permuted between individuals (permuted DFA), to obtain the statistical significance of the mean effect size. From these randomised sets, the same steps, fitting and validation, were consecutively performed. After 1000 iterations, we calculated the proportion of randomized validation data sets revealing a number of correctly classified calls being at least as large as the effect size obtained with the non-randomised validation data set. This proportion gives the significance of the discrimination level and is equivalent to a p-value [Dentressangle, Aubin & Mathevon, 2012; Mathevon, Koralek, Weldele, Glickman & Theunissen, 2010; Mundry & Sommer 2007].

#### *Individual vocal signatures*

We assessed the reliability of individual signatures for each call type independently using two different approaches: the first approach used a pDFA (same method as described above, except that calls within each call type were classified according to the identity of the vocaliser; here the chance of correct classification was 10%, i.e. 1/10 possible individual callers), and secondly by

calculating the acoustic variation and potential for individual coding (PIC) for each call type overall, as well as for each acoustic parameter describing the calls (Robisson, Aubin & Bremond, 1993).

The amount of variability across the five call types was determined by calculating the inter- and intra-individual coefficients of variation (CV). Intra-individual CVs correspond to the variability of each acoustic variable within individuals, and inter-individual CVs correspond to the variability of each acoustic variable between individuals (see mathematical formula below). The CV values were then used to calculate potentials of individual coding (PICs) for each acoustic variable in each call type (according to Robisson, Aubin & Bremond, 1993). For each considered acoustic parameter, the PIC corresponds to the ratio between the variability between individuals and the mean variability within individuals. A PIC value greater than one suggests that the acoustic parameter considered may be used for individual recognition as its intra-individual variability is smaller than its interindividual variability. Additionally, recent studies investigating individual distinctiveness in non-human primates have calculated CV and PIC values, including them here enables direct comparison between species (Bouchet, Blois-Heulin, Pellier, Zuberbuhler & Lemasson, 2012; Lemasson & Hausberger, 2011; Salmi, Hammerschmidt & Doran-Sheehy, 2014). As the coefficient of variation (CV) can only be calculated with variables on a ratio scale, two variables (that were on an interval scale) were not included (Slope– F<sub>0</sub> Start to Mid and Slope– F<sub>0</sub> Mid to End). Therefore,

for each of the remaining 14 parameters in each call type separately we first calculated the  $CV(Inter) = (100 \times S.D. \text{ calculated across all individuals}) / (\text{Mean (calculated across all individuals)})$  and the  $CV(Intra) = \text{the mean of individual CV values}$ , where the  $CV (= 100 \times S.D./\text{Mean})$  was calculated for each individual separately. PIC values could then be obtained for each parameter ( $PIC = CV(Inter)/CV(Intra)$ ). To assess the variation of the five call types as a whole, we took the mean of the  $CV(Inter)$  and the  $CV(Intra)$  across the 14 parameters for each call type separately. These means were then used to calculate the PIC values for each call type. To test for call type differences in the levels of variation and potential for individual coding, Friedman tests were done with the CV and PIC values for each parameter for each call type respectively.

For the acoustic variation and PIC analyses, we included all individuals with 12-20 calls for each call type. For individuals who had more than 20 calls in a given call type, we randomly chose calls to be excluded (however ensuring where possible that a single calling event or calls given in a single day were not over-represented). This ensured that no single individual was overrepresented, as no individual contributed more than 20 calls for each call type.

For the pDFA analysis, we retained individuals who had a minimum of 14 calls for each call type (with the exception of one individual who had 13 calls in the peep call type) (See Supplemental Table A1 for the number of calls contributed by each individual for each call type). Not every individual had a sufficient

number of calls for each call type to be included in all five-call type analyses. The peep call-type had the fewest number of contributing individuals ( $n=10$ ). To allow for direct comparison across call types, we randomly chose ten individuals for each of the other four call types (balancing the data for individual sex and group), with the majority of individuals contributing to 2 or 3 call type analyses (mean = 2.5, max = 4, min = 1; Supplemental Table A1).

We considered the identity of callers to assess the individual vocal signature, but not the sex, rank or age. Indeed, sex information is one of the many other elements that constitute individual identity. A receiver may identify the overall identity of a familiar caller and not need to categorize it by its sex. To identify other parameters and their interactions that may influence the identity signature was beyond the scope of this study.

## RESULTS

### Call types – Classification and context

The results of the pDFA showed that the acoustic structure of calls supports the initial, human-driven, classification into call types, with an accuracy of 57% (chance = 20%,  $P < 0.001$ ; Figure 2).

A scatterplot using discriminant function 1 and 2 to visualise the grouping of the call types, fails to show any distinct boundaries between the five call types,



suggesting acoustic grading (Figure 3). We observed a crescent shape from the soft peep to loud high-hoot, which highlights the strong graded nature of the most common call types in the vocal system of the bonobo.

Despite the gradedness of the five call types, overall the call types were used significantly differently from one another in different contexts ( $\chi^2 = 930.281$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; results of Chi-square on contingency table of observed vs. expected number of calls emitted in each context for each call type) (Table 2), and post-hoc tests revealed that each call type was used significantly differently from each other call type (see Supplemental Table A3 for details). The high-hoots were used most often before feeding times (pre-feeding) and by aggressors in agonistic encounters (aggression), but also during changes in environment and to external events (or alarm). Barks were given in similar contexts to high-hoots, however, with a marked increase of calls being given during feeding events. Soft barks were given mostly in association with feeding and foraging, but also during pre-feeding events. Peep-yelps and peeps, finally, were used similarly with the main difference being an increased usage of peeps during grooming and contact and a decreased usage during feeding or foraging (Table 2).

### **Individual vocal signature**

Five separate pDFA analyses were run on each call type to evaluate the level of individual distinctiveness along the graded repertoire. Calls were assigned to the correct emitter 53% of the time for high-hoots (chance level = 10%;  $P =$

0.001), 44% for barks (chance level = 10%;  $P = 0.001$ ), 30% for soft barks (chance level = 10%;  $P = 0.001$ ), 25% for peep-yelps (chance level = 10%;  $P = 0.004$ ) and 23% for peeps (chance level = 10%;  $P = 0.006$ ) (all percentages were from cross-validated data sets; Figures 3 and 4; Supplemental Tables A4, A5, A6, A7, A8).

### **Variability and vocal signature**

All of the call types had PIC values over 1, indicating that all five have some capacity to code for individuality, however the PIC was significantly stronger in some call types (Friedman test of PIC values:  $\chi^2(13) = 49.114$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). PIC was highest in high-hoots (1.22), followed by barks (1.18), peep-yelps (1.10), soft barks (1.08) and peeps (1.03) (Table 3).

We then used this information to investigate which of the acoustic parameters had the highest potential for individual coding. Across all call types the onset frequency of the fundamental frequency ( $F_0$ -Start) (1.20) and the ascending slope (1.22) had the highest PIC values (Table 3). However, when investigating each call type separately, these two parameters did not always have the highest potential for individual coding. The onset frequency of the fundamental frequency ( $F_0$ -Start) had the highest PIC in both the peep and barks, while the maximum frequency reached on the fundamental frequency ( $F_0$ -Peak) had the highest PIC in peep-yelps and high-hoots and the call duration and the frequency of the fundamental at the end of the call ( $F_0$ -End) equally had the

highest PIC for soft barks. Additionally, for each call type separately not all acoustic parameters reached the minimum threshold ( $PIC \leq 1$ ) of identity coding (Table 3). It is clear that acoustic parameters related to the tonality had consistently higher PIC values than the parameters describing the energy distribution for all five call types.

## **DISCUSSION**

Our results demonstrate that the bonobo tonal calls investigated show clear individual vocal signatures. Furthermore, the results support our hypothesis that the reliability of this signature varies along the graded vocal continuum formed by these calls. Caller identity signalling is stronger at one end of the acoustic gradation (high-hoot) and then decreases from bark, soft bark, peep-yelp to peep calls. The reliability of the individual signature thus decreases from calls mostly used in high-arousal contexts to the ones used in low-arousal contexts. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first demonstration that the acoustic gradation that codes for 'dynamic' information can be accompanied by a gradation of the strength of the 'static' information that supports vocal individuality.

Individual signatures are the result of idiosyncratic acoustic features characterizing each individual. These features are constrained by the biomechanics of sound production, which varies depending on individual

morphology, anatomy, and physiology. As such, a proximal explanation for the variation of the strength of individual signature across the vocal repertoire is that the acoustic features of calls do not have the same potential for encoding individual variation. Soft calls, namely characterized by little to no frequency modulation and short durations, may offer reduced possibility for encoding identity cues. Conversely, highly frequency modulated calls as the high-hoot may support higher possibilities for individual differences.

Importantly, we recently demonstrated with playback experiments that bonobos are able to discriminate between the peep-yelps of familiar and unfamiliar individuals (Keenan et al., 2016). This suggests that even the call types with a less reliable individual signature may contain enough identity information for individual recognition in bonobos. Similar findings with various species have demonstrated that individuals are able to utilize acoustically encoded identity information to recognise others even in calls with low potential for individuality (e.g. in zebra finches – Elie & Theunissen, 2018; northern fur seals, *Callorhinus ursinus* – Insley, 2000; domestic horses, *Equus caballus* – Proops, McComb & Reby, 2009; and rhesus macaques *Macaca mulatta* – Rendell, Rodman & Emond, 1996). However, peep-yelps, and other soft calls, may greatly suffer from long range propagation through the forest environment. We assume that the individual signature carried by these calls should be efficient only at short-range. We suggest that the increase in signature reliability from peeps to high-hoots may be functionally relevant since it allows louder calls, which propagate

further, to maintain the fidelity of individual information (“distance hypothesis”, Ey & Fischer, 2009; Fedurek, Zuberbühler & Dahl, 2016; Mitani, Gros-Louis & Macedonia, 1996; Mitani & Stuht 1998). It is also possible that the social value of individual recognition increases from peeps to high-hoots (“social function hypothesis”, Price, Arnold, Zuberbuhler & Semple, 2009; Snowdon & Hausberger, 1997; Snowdon & Hausberger 1997).

Whether variation in the reliability of individual signatures across a vocal repertoire is an adaptive response to socio-ecological pressures is still debated. Similar to our data, a recent study (Salmi, Hammerschmidt & Doran-Sheehy, 2014) investigating individual distinctiveness in both close and long range call types of female western gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), found that all call types had the same potential for individual coding. The authors concluded that neither the social function nor the distance hypotheses accurately reflected the possible evolutionary pressures likely acting on female gorilla calls.

While gorillas are the only other ape species where multiple call types were investigated, Mitani et al. (1996) studied two call types in chimpanzees, the bonobo’s congener. They found, as in our study, that loud calls contained stronger identity information than soft calls used when in close contact with other individuals. Chimpanzees and bonobos both live in dense rain forests, forming far more complex fluid fission-fusion societies compared to the gorilla’s largely stable polygynous group structure (Robbins, Bermejo, Cipolletta, Magliocca,

Parnell, & Stokes, 2004). This difference in social structure, and the need to regularly communicate with group members over long distances, is likely a driving evolutive pressure for accurate identity signaling over long distance.

So far acoustically graded calls have been overlooked in animal communication research, despite being widespread in the vocal repertoire of terrestrial mammals (Crockford, 2019; Fischer, Wadewitz & Hammerschmidt, 2017). This lack of knowledge is mainly due to the complexity of capturing and describing the variations in the signal repertoires without forcing arbitrary categorizations (Fischer, Wadewitz & Hammerschmidt, 2017). Yet, a comparative perspective on graded repertoires of non-human primates and other mammals may inform understanding of our own vocal repertoire. Indeed, the non-verbal vocalisations of humans (e.g. laughter, cries, and screams) resemble those of non-human mammals, especially when one considers how they greatly fluctuate in their acoustic structure (Briefer 2012, 2020; Morton, 1977). Despite their importance in human social regulation, how individual vocal signatures change or are preserved across calls used in a diversity of communication contexts -from joy to distress- is also poorly known. A recent study in humans revealed that individual differences in fundamental frequency (F0), which is an important biosocial marker during speech production (for reviews Lavan, Burton, Scott & McGettigan, 2019; Pisanski, Cartei, McGettigan, Raine & Reby, 2016), may be preserved across non-verbal sounds (from laughter to screams) in largely valence-specific manner. For instance, individual differences in F0 were

592 preserved across pain vocalisations representing varying levels of pain intensity  
593 (Pisanski, Raine & Reby, 2020). Pisanski et al. (2016b) argued that the high  
594 ability of humans to voice modulation is likely to predate our ability to articulate  
595 the verbal dimension of speech. Here we raise the question whether a vocally  
596 graded repertoire is to some extent a form of vocal flexibility.

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930

931

932

933 Table 1. Automatic and manual acoustic parameters  
 934  
 935

Acoustic parameters	Description/Calculation
F <sub>0</sub> -Start	Fundamental frequency at beginning of the call (Hz)
F <sub>0</sub> -End	Fundamental frequency at end of the call (Hz)
F <sub>0</sub> -Peak	Highest frequency reached on the fundamental (in Hz)
F <sub>0</sub> -Peak Time	Point over the duration of the call at which F <sub>0</sub> -Peak is reached. Manually calculated as a proportion: time of F <sub>0</sub> -Peak(s) / Call Duration (s)
Call Duration	Length of call (s)
Ascending Slope	Calculated as: (F <sub>0</sub> -Peak – F <sub>0</sub> -Start) / (F <sub>0</sub> -Peak Time – 0)
Descending Slope	Calculated as: (F <sub>0</sub> -End – F <sub>0</sub> -Peak) / (1 – F <sub>0</sub> Peak Time)
Slope– F <sub>0</sub> Start to Mid	Calculated as: (F <sub>0</sub> at midpoint of call duration – F <sub>0</sub> -Start) / (Time at midpoint of call duration – 0)
Slope– F <sub>0</sub> Mid to End	Calculated as: (F <sub>0</sub> -End – F <sub>0</sub> at midpoint of call duration) / (Call duration – Time at midpoint of call duration)
<b>Q25 Frequency</b>	<b>The frequency at which the call is divided into two intervals, the first quartile contains 25% of the call's energy (Hz)</b>
<b>Q25 Time</b>	<b>The time at which the call is divided into two intervals, the first quartile contains 25% of the call's energy (s)</b>

<b>Q50 Frequency</b>	<b>The median - the frequency at which the call is divided into two frequency intervals of equal energy (Hz)</b>
<b>Q75 Frequency</b>	<b>The third quartile – contains 75% of the call's energy (Hz)</b>
<b>Q75 Time</b>	<b>The third quartile – contains 75% of the call's energy (s)</b>
<b>Maximum Frequency</b>	<b>The frequency at which the maximum energy occurs in the call (Hz)</b>
<b>Maximum Time</b>	<b>The first time point along the call where maximum amplitude occurs on waveform (s)</b>

936

937 Non-bold text are the manually measured or calculated measurements, and  
 938 bold text are automatically calculated by the Raven program.

939



Table 2. Call type usage in each context

Percentage of calls given in each context					
Contexts	High-hoot	Bark	Soft Bark	Peep-yelp	Peep
Aggression	<b>23.12</b>	<b>19.03</b>	2.66	0.00	0.00
Change in environment	18.02	13.46	9.93	2.86	1.58
External Event (Alarm)	13.81	6.96	2.18	2.14	0.79
Pre-feeding	<b>38.74</b>	<b>34.34</b>	<b>21.55</b>	17.38	21.74
Feeding	1.80	18.10	<b>38.26</b>	<b>36.19</b>	<b>28.46</b>
Forage	4.50	3.25	18.40	15.95	9.09
Groom	0.00	0.93	1.45	6.43	9.88
Contact-general	0.00	3.94	5.57	<b>19.05</b>	<b>28.46</b>

The two contexts in which each call type is most commonly used are in bold. (Percentages presented for clarity only; chi-square results were generated by analysing observed vs. expected values of call rates.)

947 Table 3. Potential for individual coding (PIC)  
 948  
 949

PIC values by Call Types						
Individual Parameters	Overall PIC					
	value for each parameter	Peep	Peep -yelp	Soft bark	Bark	High- hoot
F <sub>0</sub> -Start	1.20	<b>1.23</b>	1.24	1.12	<b>1.29</b>	1.38
F <sub>0</sub> -End	1.11	1.20	1.18	<b>1.20</b>	1.19	1.43
F <sub>0</sub> -Peak	1.20	1.21	<b>1.25</b>	1.12	1.25	<b>1.46</b>
F <sub>0</sub> -Peak Time	1.08	0.91	1.03	1.04	1.06	1.18
Call Duration	1.16	1.05	1.13	<b>1.20</b>	1.19	1.28
Ascending Slope	<b>1.22</b>	0.97	1.15	1.06	1.19	1.14
Descending Slope	1.03	1.06	1.17	1.08	1.02	1.21
Q25 Frequency	1.17	1.17	1.11	1.12	1.17	1.38
Q25 Time	1.07	0.99	1.01	1.03	1.15	1.06
Q50 Frequency	1.12	1.15	1.11	1.10	1.22	1.36
Q75 Frequency	1.14	1.17	1.08	1.18	1.23	1.34
Q75 Time	1.09	1.00	1.05	1.06	1.12	1.14
Maximum Frequency	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.08	1.11	1.28
Maximum Time	1.10	1.02	1.03	1.03	1.10	1.08
<b>Overall PIC for call type</b>		1.03	1.10	1.08	1.18	1.22

950

951 Investigation of the potential for individuality in each call type as well as each  
952 parameter across all call types and within each call type separately. A PIC  
953 greater than or equal to 1 suggests potential for individuality. For each call type,  
954 the parameter with the highest PIC is in bold.  
955

Figure 1. Acoustic and temporal measurements. Example of manual measurements taken on a soft bark call: a= F<sub>0</sub>-Start, b=F<sub>0</sub>-Midpoint (not included in analysis but used to calculate other measurements), c=F<sub>0</sub>-Peak, d= F<sub>0</sub>-End. Call duration=time at b) – time at a).

Figure 2. Spectrographic illustrations of the five most common call types of the bonobo repertoire. Spectrogram images depict: 1) High-hoot; 2) Bark; 3) Soft bark; 4) Peep-yelp; 5) Peep. Panel 6) shows the confusion matrix obtained from the permuted DFA classifying the five call types, which are labelled as just listed. The classification rate was of 60% for High-hoot, 44% for Bark, 48% for Soft bark, 58% for Peep-yelp and 62% for Peep. On the confusion matrix, the diagonal shows the rate at which a call type was correctly assigned – specifically, what percentage the actual call type and the predicted call type match. The brightness of each diagonal yellow square corresponds to the strength of classification. The off-diagonal cells show percentage of misclassification for each call type and which other call type they were misclassified as.

Figure 3. Acoustic gradation and individual signature coding in the bonobo vocal repertoire. Top: The scatterplot illustrates the graded nature of the acoustic properties of the five call types. The Table displays the factor loadings on

Discriminant function 1 and 2. White asterisks mark the centroid of each call type. Bottom graph: The mean percentage of correct classification for individual identity is reported for each call type, illustrating that the reliability of the vocal signature increases from peeps to high-hoots.

Figure 4. Individual vocal signatures in five different call types. 1) High-hoots (mean correction classification rate: 53%); 2) Barks (mean correction classification rate: 44%; 3) Soft Barks (mean correction classification rate: 30%); 4) Peep-yelps (mean correction classification rate: 30%); 5) Peeps (mean correction classification rate: 23%). Each confusion matrix shows the results of five separate permuted DFAs investigating the strength individuality in each call type. The confusion matrix shows the probability that an individual's calls were correctly classified after 100 iterations – the legend shows the percent accuracy for each individual (the accurate percentages are given in Supplementary Table A4; Random classification at 10%). Details on each individual, age, sex, rank, zoo and number call contributed to each analysis can be found in Supplemental Table A1.)

1000 **SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES**

1001

1002 Supplemental Table A1. Group composition and numbers of calls contributed  
1003 per individual

1004

Name (Abbr)	Sex	Age	Rank	Zoo	Bark	High- hoot	Peep	Peep -yelp	Soft bark
Hortense (Ho)	F	35	High	Apen	*15	✓*18	✓*32	✓*15	11
Jill (Ji)	F	28	High	Apen	*55	✓*52	✓*25	*51	✓*44
Zuani (Zu)	F	23	High	Apen	✓*26	✓*45	0	*15	*26
Bolombo (Bo)	M	16	Low	Apen	✓*37	0	✓*25	✓*29	✓*15
Zamba (Za)	M	15	Mid	Apen	✓*14	✓*48	✓*18	✓*23	*18
Kumbuka (Ku)	F	14	Mid	Apen	✓*32	✓*19	✓*27	*12	*20
Besede (N/A)	F	8	Low	Apen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yahimba (N/A) <sup>o</sup>	F	4	N/A	Apen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Makasi <sup>○</sup> (N/A)	M	4	N/A	Apen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monyama (N/A)	F	3	N/A	Apen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lina (Li)	F	28	High	Planc	✓*17	2	6	✓*21	✓*28
Vifijo (Vi)	M	19	Low	Planc	✓*27	0	✓*14	✓*19	6
Djanoa (Dj)	F	18	Mid	Planc	6	11	5	✓*23	✓*32
Louisoko (Ls)	M	15	Mid	Planc	✓*32	6	3	10	✓*26
Lucuma (Lc)	M	11	Mid	Planc	*13	0	3	*15	✓*14
Busira (N/A)○	F	10	Low	Planc	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Habari (N/A) <sup>○</sup>	M	7	Low	Planc	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lingoye (N/A) <sup>○</sup>	F	8	Mid	Planc	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nayoki (N/A)	F	2	N/A	Planc	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Daniela	F	45	High	VDS	1	0	✓*14	✓*38	*35

---

(Dd)									
Lisala (Lsl)	F	33	Mid	VDS	2	4	3	7	✓*35
Ukela (Uk)	F	28	High	VDS	*14	✓*18	1	10	✓*19
Bondo (N/A)○	M	22	Low	VDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kirembo (Kir)	M	21	Low	VDS	2	2	✓*22	✓*15	8
Ulindi (Ul)	F	20	Mid	VDS	*24	✓*17	8	✓*16	*14
David (Dv)	M	12	Mid	VDS	5	9	✓*15	*29	✓*19
Diwani (Dw)	M	17	Mid	VDS	✓*50	✓*23	5	9	8
Khaya (Kh)	F	12	Mid	VDS	✓*24	✓*17	8	*17	6
Lucy (Ly)	F	10	Low	VDS	✓*22	✓*30	✓*13	*17	7
Lingala (Lng)	F	10	Mid	VDS	*13	*12	6	✓*29	✓*22
Kelele (N/A)	M	9	Low	VDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



---

Luebo (N/A) <sup>○</sup>	M	6	N/A	VDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nakala (N/A) <sup>○</sup>	F	5	N/A	VDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Loto (N/A) <sup>○</sup>	M	4	N/A	VDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Khalessi (N/A) <sup>○</sup>	F	1	N/A	VDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Moko (N/A) <sup>○</sup>	M	1	N/A	VDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

---

1005

1006 ✓ Indicates individuals included in pDFA analysis. \*Indicates individual  
1007 included in PIC and variability analysis. <sup>○</sup>Indicates individuals who were not  
1008 included in the study, which was all individuals under the age of 10 and an  
1009 adult male and female both with low calling rates.

1010

1011 Supplemental Table A2. Acoustic description of each call type

1012

		Call Types				
Acoustic parameters		High-hoot	Bark	Soft Bark	Peep-Yelp	Peep
		N=333	N=431	N=413	N=420	N=253
F <sub>0</sub> -Start	MEAN	1031.73	1352.51	1543.31	1364.85	1342.38
	S.D.	490.48	586.69	340.01	357.09	376.35
F <sub>0</sub> -End	MEAN	1285.32	1420.46	1405.03	1363.51	1354.77
	S.D.	404.58	423.75	393.69	375.72	384.72
F <sub>0</sub> -Peak	MEAN	2392.79	2219.37	1928.1	1607.05	1401.18
	S.D.	332.98	365.34	286.36	331.53	382.08
F <sub>0</sub> -Peak Time	MEAN	0.468	0.443	0.45	0.512	0.308
	S.D.	0.131	0.123	0.149	0.202	0.36
Call Duration	MEAN	0.239	0.193	0.172	0.158	0.106
	S.D.	0.067	0.057	0.048	0.044	0.038
Ascending	MEAN	3236.07	1978.76	858.14	479.93	101.31
Slope	S.D.	1968.15	1200.45	564.47	391.53	147.78
Descending	MEAN	-2083.48	-1464.78	-953.52	-510.31	-78.25
Slope	S.D.	847.28	782.78	630.38	494.19	114
Slope- F <sub>0</sub> Start to Mid	MEAN	11124.01	8787.26	4146.4	2821.28	654.03
	S.D.	5093.9	5819.3	3021.21	2310.53	1583.44
Slope- F <sub>0</sub> Mid to End	MEAN	-8891.67	-8096	-5849.33	-2757.86	-459.76
	S.D.	4194.48	4878.49	4131.16	2635.8	1306.48

Q25 Frequency	MEAN	1953.65	1832.98	1796.7	1509.9	1346.47
	S.D.	679	501.88	414.84	414.53	404.16
Q25 Time	MEAN	0.084	0.072	0.065	0.057	0.037
	S.D.	0.048	0.048	0.042	0.038	0.031
Q50 Frequency	MEAN	2436.3	2155.83	2028.72	1708.41	1488.27
	S.D.	759.6	592.43	573.09	571.71	516.4
Q75 Frequency	MEAN	2952.44	2639.05	2354.58	2009.77	1723.85
	S.D.	953.46	871.97	777.02	757.62	696.86
Q75 Time	MEAN	0.171	0.136	0.118	0.106	0.072
	S.D.	0.063	0.058	0.049	0.044	0.042
Maximum	MEAN	2324.69	2075.19	2026.32	1743.69	1477.03
Frequency	S.D.	952.46	742.84	658.31	674.38	547.96
Maximum Time	MEAN	0.124	0.102	0.091	0.08	0.054
	S.D.	0.075	0.059	0.046	0.042	0.029

1013

1014 The mean and standard deviation (S.D.) of each acoustic parameter for each  
1015 call type are given.

1016

1017 Supplemental Table A3. Results from post-hoc comparisons between each  
 1018 call type on their different contextual usage

1019

	df	$\chi^2$	Likelihood Ratio	<i>N</i>	<i>p</i>
High-hoot – Bark	7	76.296	94.65	764	< 0.001
High-hoot – Soft Bark	7	290.838	346.057	746	< 0.001
High-hoot – Peep-yelp	7	419.855	526.550	753	< 0.001
High-hoot – Peep	7	346.154	437.113	586	< 0.001
Bark – Soft Bark	7	153.934	166.575	844	< 0.001
Bark – Peep-yelp	7	265.360	309.841	851	< 0.001
Bark – Peep	7	216.074	252.697	684	< 0.001
Soft Bark – Peep-yelp	7	73.984	82.075	833	< 0.001
Soft Bark – Peep	7	119.831	126.653	666	< 0.001
Peep-yelp – Peep	6*	21.447	21.840	673	0.002

1020

1021 \*There were no peep-yelps or peeps given in the aggression context, therefore  
 1022 the df for that comparison is 6 as compared to 7 for the other comparisons.

1023

1024 Supplemental Table A4. Individual vocal signatures in high-hoots

1025

Actual individual	Predicted individual									
	Dw	Ho	Ji	Kh	Ku	Ly	Uk	UI	Za	Zu
Dw	<b>50</b>	3	11	7	1	16	1	1	9	0
Ho	2	<b>70</b>	18	0	0	0	1	3	6	0
Ji	3	9	<b>49</b>	3	1	10	16	2	1	6
Kh	1	0	9	<b>35</b>	0	17	17	10	3	7
Ku	5	0	0	3	<b>77</b>	8	0	7	0	1
Ly	12	0	6	24	6	<b>39</b>	11	0	1	0
Uk	5	2	24	12	0	4	<b>31</b>	13	0	8
UI	0	2	3	1	7	1	17	<b>60</b>	1	8
Za	21	1	0	4	3	7	0	0	<b>63</b>	0
Zu	0	0	1	14	0	1	9	19	0	<b>56</b>

1026

1027

1028 The table shows the accurate results of a permuted DFAs investigating the  
 1029 strength individuality in High-hoot calls. It shows the probability that an  
 1030 individual's calls were correctly classified (namely the number of times out of  
 1031 100 iterations where the identity of the "predicted individual" by the pDFA  
 1032 matches with the "actual individual" identity; Random classification at 10%). The  
 1033 names of individuals are abbreviated in two letters, correct individual  
 1034 classifications are in bold. Details on each individual, age, sex, rank, zoo and

1035 number call contributed to each analysis can be found in Supplemental Table  
1036 A1). The mean correct classification rate of high-hoots was 53%.

1037

1038 Supplemental Table A5. Individual vocal signatures in barks

1039

Actual individual	Predicted individual									
	Bo	Dw	Kh	Ku	Li	Ls	Ly	Vi	Za	Zu
Bo	<b>44</b>	1	9	0	14	13	3	6	8	3
<i>Dw</i>	4	<b>34</b>	17	4	0	2	11	12	14	2
Kh	20	10	<b>22</b>	6	3	10	9	4	0	16
Ku	4	3	5	<b>63</b>	4	5	9	5	2	0
Li	12	1	2	1	<b>37</b>	11	5	1	7	24
Ls	12	0	4	3	5	<b>63</b>	0	1	0	11
Ly	4	15	7	5	8	1	<b>52</b>	5	0	3
Vi	18	6	8	0	1	6	3	<b>36</b>	21	2
Za	2	16	4	8	1	3	1	19	<b>46</b>	0
Zu	14	0	2	4	9	21	1	4	2	<b>42</b>

1040

1041 Same legend as on the Supplemental Table A4 but for barks. The mean correct

1042 classification rate of barks was 44%.

1043

1044 Supplemental Table A6. Individual vocal signatures in soft barks

1045

Actual individual	Predicted individual									
	Bo	Dv	Dj	Ji	Li	Lng	Lsl	Ls	Lc	Uk
Bo	<b>26</b>	2	19	13	11	10	4	11	3	1
Dv	0	<b>36</b>	3	3	3	16	5	15	11	8
Dj	15	12	<b>16</b>	10	24	2	2	8	6	4
Ji	13	5	6	<b>26</b>	4	7	4	20	10	7
Li	8	7	23	10	<b>34</b>	0	2	12	3	1
Lng	7	9	3	16	0	<b>26</b>	8	8	16	7
Lsl	5	9	9	5	12	12	<b>16</b>	11	4	16
Ls	4	10	5	13	10	12	5	<b>23</b>	16	2
Lc	4	8	6	11	6	8	1	20	<b>34</b>	1
Uk	4	8	3	2	0	5	10	0	3	<b>66</b>

1046

1047 Same legend as on the Supplemental Table A4 but for soft barks. The mean

1048 correct classification rate of soft barks was 30.15%.

1049



1050 Supplemental Table A7. Individual vocal signatures in peep-yelps

1051

Actual individual	Predicted individual									
	Bo	Dd	Dj	Ho	Ki	Li	Lng	UI	Vi	Za
Bo	<b>12</b>	8	12	2	15	25	7	5	9	4
Dd	2	<b>26</b>	4	4	11	0	9	21	17	6
Dj	12	6	<b>11</b>	5	11	29	3	4	14	5
Ho	4	6	9	<b>13</b>	3	8	6	5	32	14
Ki	11	15	19	1	<b>14</b>	10	10	9	7	4
Li	14	3	11	4	8	<b>36</b>	10	1	2	13
Lng	6	8	6	8	21	6	<b>30</b>	5	8	3
UI	1	32	0	1	3	0	11	<b>40</b>	12	1
Vi	4	14	3	32	15	2	4	3	<b>18</b>	5
Za	5	1	10	1	3	13	1	8	4	<b>55</b>

1052

1053 Same legend as on the Supplemental Table A4 but for peep-yelps. The mean

1054 correct classification rate of peep-yelps was 25.5%.

1055

1056 Supplemental Table A8. Individual vocal signatures in peeps

Actual individual	Predicted Individual									
	Dw	Ho	Ji	Kh	Ku	Ly	Uk	Ul	Za	Zu
Dw	<b>34</b>	1	11	15	3	0	10	10	7	10
Ho	1	<b>24</b>	20	8	5	17	5	3	16	2
Ji	11	19	<b>26</b>	17	10	3	5	3	2	5
Kh	7	8	7	<b>30</b>	4	4	8	8	9	14
Ku	9	12	8	6	<b>21</b>	5	15	11	6	7
Ly	1	9	12	1	12	<b>32</b>	6	7	15	6
Uk	14	13	3	7	21	6	<b>9</b>	12	9	7
Ul	12	11	4	13	5	6	22	<b>8</b>	7	13
Za	1	36	0	2	5	14	7	9	<b>21</b>	5
Zu	11	3	2	23	6	8	8	10	1	<b>27</b>

1057

1058 Same legend as on the Supplemental Table A4 but for peeps. The mean correct

1059 classification rate of peeps was 23.1%.

1060

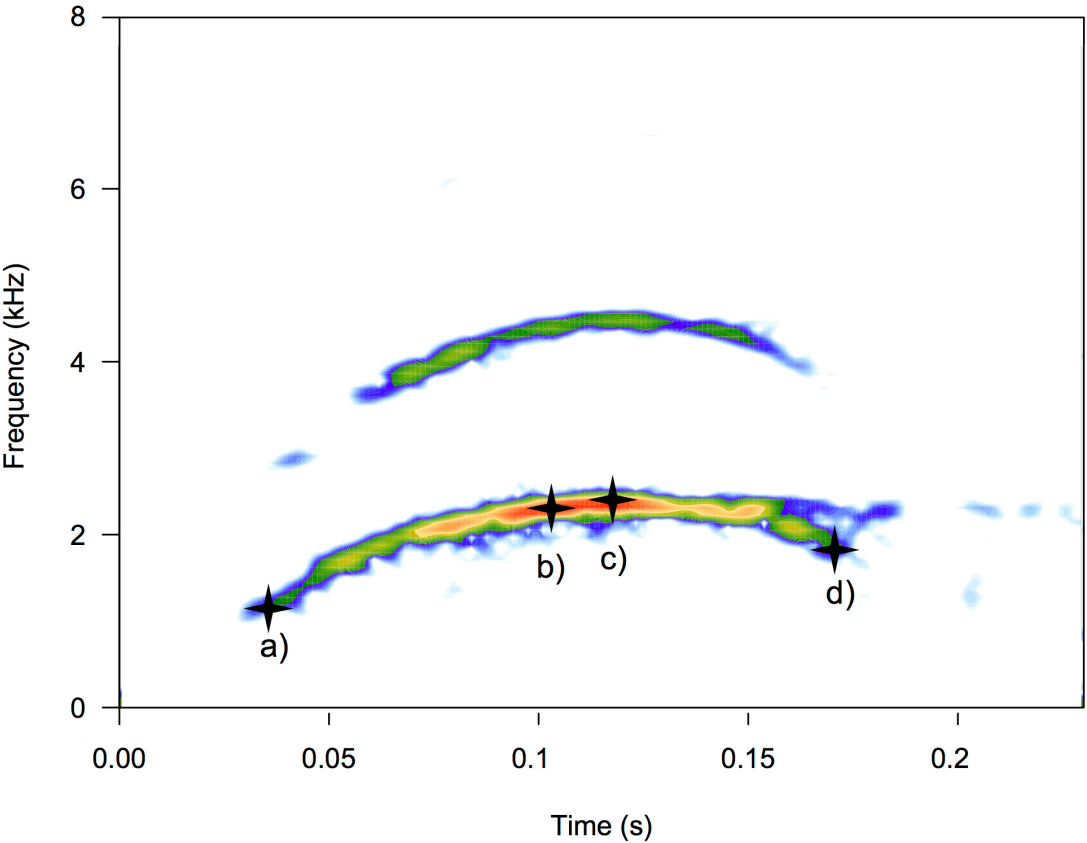
1061

**Acknowledgments:**

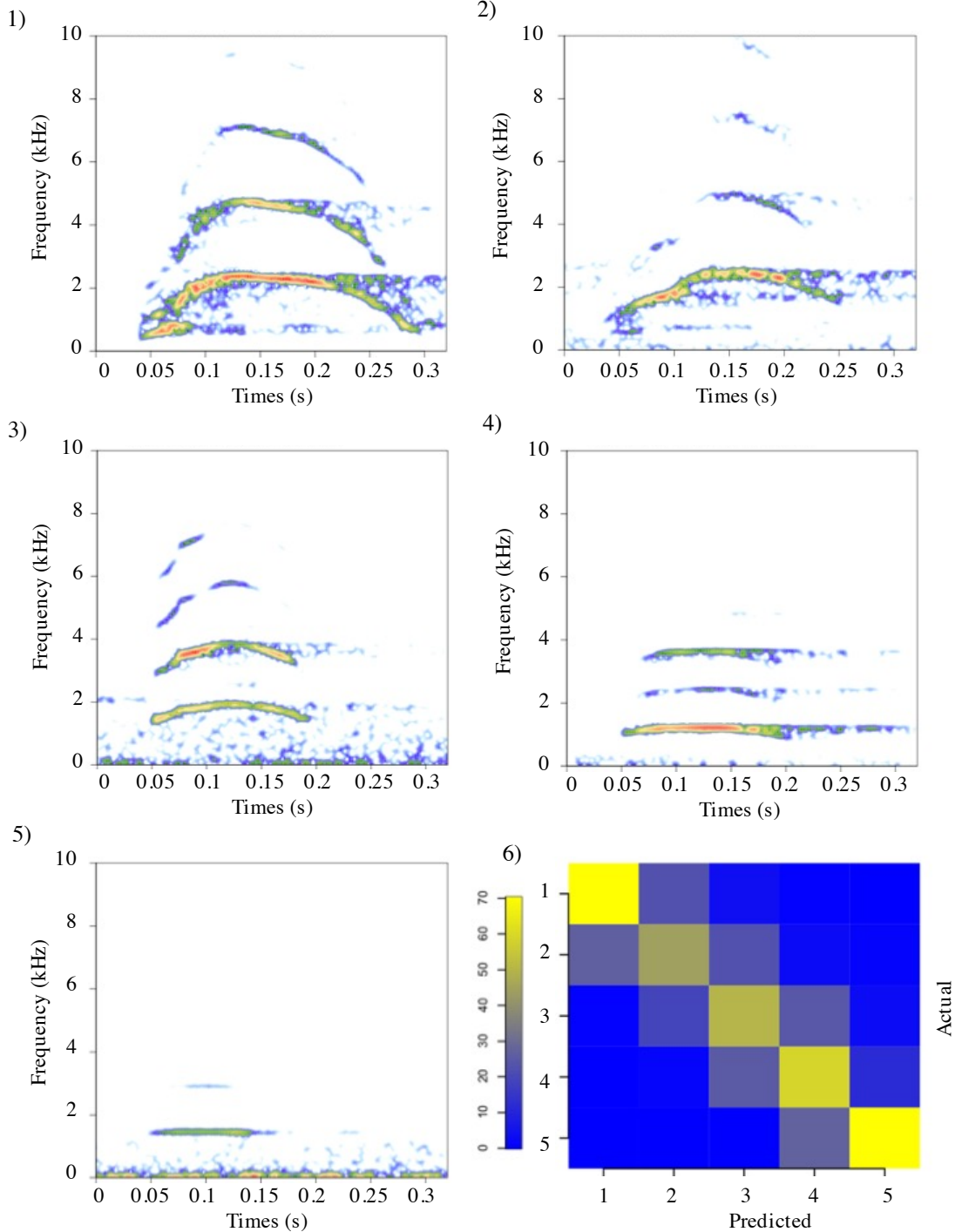
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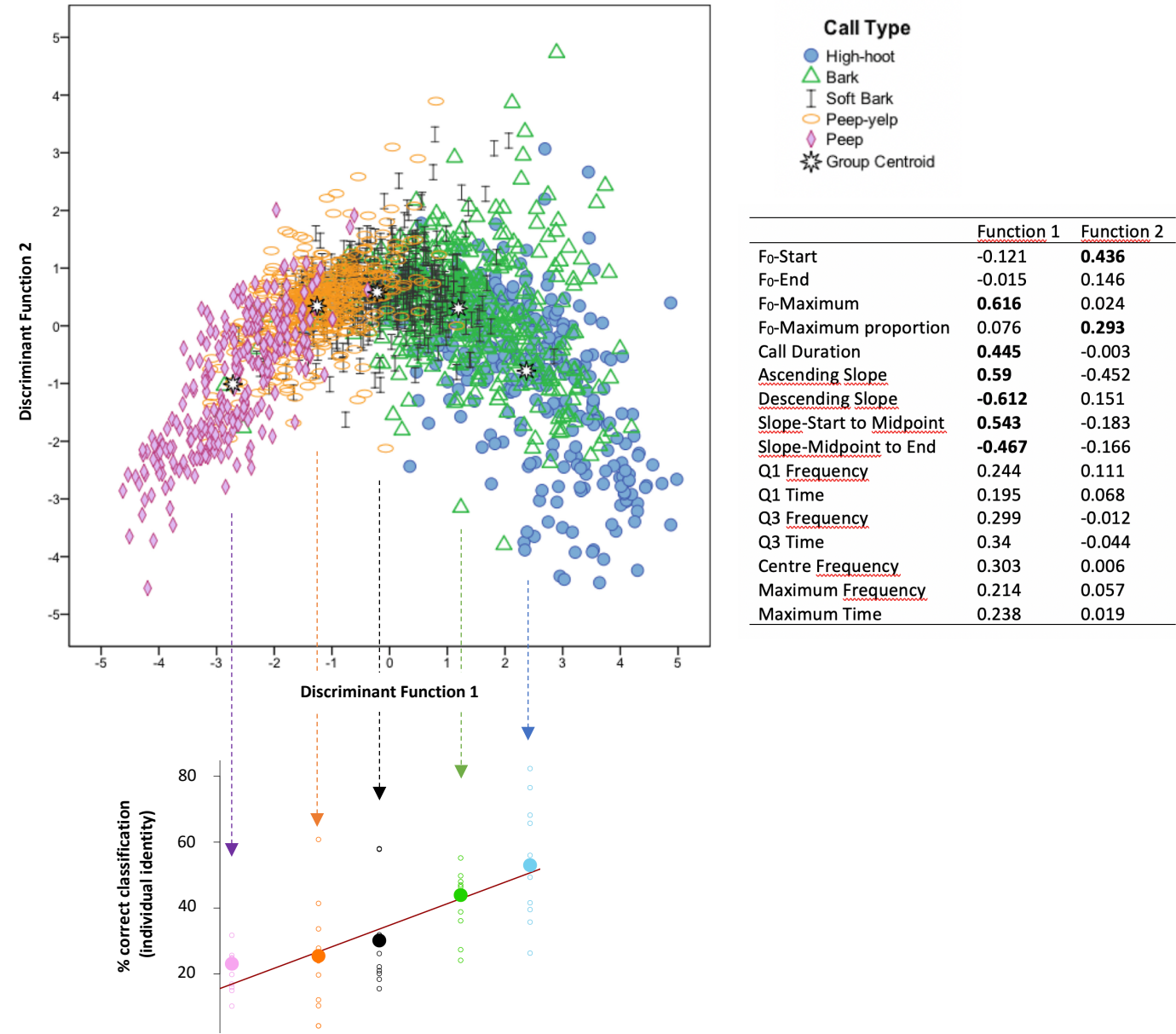
Figure

1



Figure



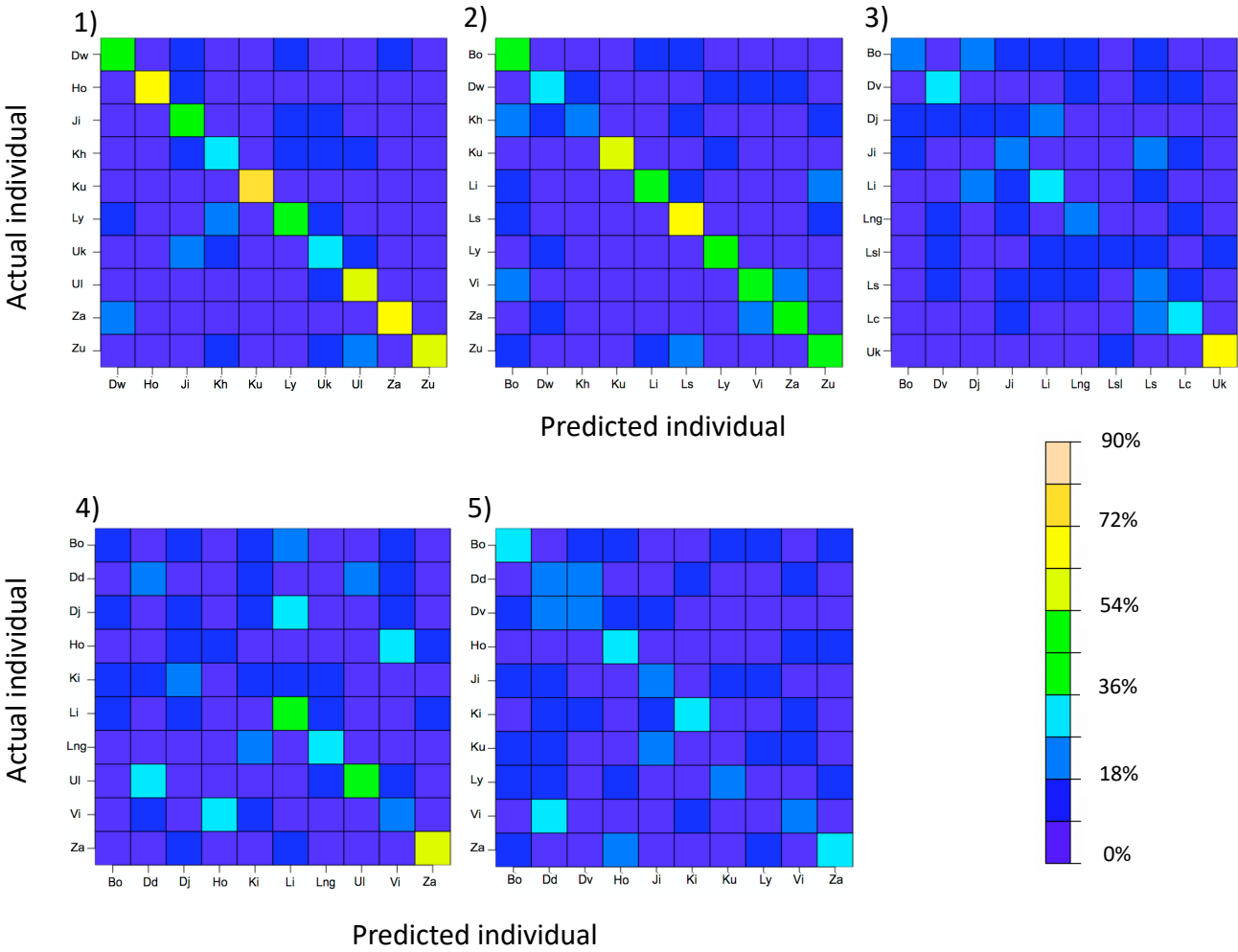


% correct classification  
(individual identity)

Discriminant Function 1

Figure

4



### **Animal Welfare Note**

All research conducted for this research paper was observational and no experimental manipulations occurred. All data collection protocols were performed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations, and were approved by the Institutional Animal Ethical Committee of the University of Lyon/Saint-Etienne, under the authorization no. 42-218-0901-38 SV 09 (Lab ENES).